AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

A replacement drawing is submitted for Figure 2 labeling this figure as Prior Art.

A replacement drawing is submitted for Figures 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 correcting the spelling of "according" and "embodiment".

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

A replacement drawing is submitted for Figure 2 labeling this figure as prior art to address the drawing objection noted in the Official Action. In addition, replacement drawings are submitted for Figures 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 correcting the spelling of "according" and "embodiment".

The above changes are the only changes and are believed not to introduce new matter.

The title of the invention is changed and is believed to address the objection to the title noted in the Official Action.

The specification is amended to make editorial changes therein.

Claims 1-30 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 9-15 and 24-30 are canceled and new claims 31 and 32 are added. Therefore, claims 2-6, 8, 16-23, 31 and 32 are presented for consideration. Claims 5, 8 and 16-23 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

New claim 31 clarifies which elements are formed on opposite sides of the second supply line and clarifies that the transistors switch between the power supply lines. In addition, claim 2 is amended to clarify that at least one power supply line

extends to be connected to an external connection terminal. The above-noted changes are believed to address the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejections noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 are rejected as unpatentable over applicant's disclosed prior art in view of LIN et al. 5,777,369.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested because the proposed combination of references does not teach or suggest first and second transistors respectively placed in a gap between first and second power supply lines and a gap between second and third power supply lines. The references also fail to teach that first transistor switches between the first and second power supply lines and the second transistor switches between the second and third power supply lines as recited.

In applicant's disclosed prior art Figure 34, transistors 30 and 31 are arranged at the top and bottom of power supply line a34 so that transistors 30 and 31 are arranged along the same side of power supply line a34.

Similarly, Figure 3 of LIN shows drains of first and second transistors connected to V_{DD} bus, sources of the transistors connected to BL28a and BL28b and gates of the transistors connected to VG1. The drains of the third and fourth transistors are connected to V_{DD} bus, the sources of the transistors are connected to BL28d and BL28c and the gates of the transistors are connected to VG2.

According to the above configuration of Figure 3 of LIN, the first and second transistors are also arranged on the top and bottom along the same side of V_{DD} bus line. The third and fourth transistors are also arranged similarly to that of the first and second transistors.

The above-noted arrangement of the transistors of LIN and the transistors of prior art Figure 34 results in defects due to variations in the characteristics of the transistors, for example, a variation of threshold voltage.

By arranging the transistors on either side of the power line as recited in new claim 31 (as seen in Figure 1 of the present application, for example), the problems associated with LIN and prior art Figure 34 are eliminated.

New claim 32 recites that at least one power supply line extends straight to an external connection terminal and is connected with the external connection terminal.

The circuit laid out as recited in claim 32 avoids an increase in width of the circuit layout even though the wiring extends to an external connection terminal. This enables a circuit having a plurality of transistors to be placed in a smaller area than that of prior art Figure 34 and LIN. Accordingly, claim 32 is also believed patentable over the proposed combination of references.

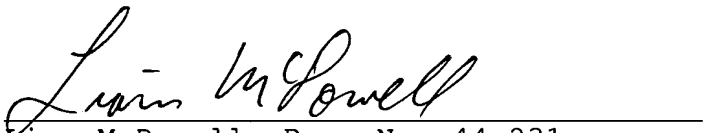
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been

placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- replacement sheets for Figures 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7